

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 ACDA-07 DODE-00 MC-02  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /034 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS: DKEENE:TLB  
APPROVED BY PM MR. ERICSON  
NEA - SSOBER  
L/PM - MR. BOREK (DRAFT)  
ACDA/WEC - LTC. FLUHR(DRAFT)  
DOD/DSAA - LTC. PERKINS(DRAFT)  
PM/MC - MR. ROBINSON(DRAFT)  
NEA/ARP - JWTWINAM  
NEA/RA - COL. R. HOBBS  
-----086724 161925Z /41

R 160126Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, BA

SUBJECT: BDF WEAPONS PROCUREMENT

REF: A). MANAMA 1192  
B). MANAMA 1360

1. AGUSTA BELL MANUFACTURES HELICOPTERS, INCLUDING MODEL  
212, UNDER LICENSE FROM U.S. FIRM.

2. IN THE CASE OF HELICOPTERS WITH MILITARY CONFIGURATION  
(E.G. ARMORED OR INCLUDING HARD POINTS), AGUSTA MUST APPLY  
FOR AND RECEIVE USG PERMISSION BEFORE IT MAY SELL TO A  
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THIRD COUNTRY. AGUSTA HAS MADE NO APPLICATION TO DATE.

3. IN THE CASE OF CIVILIAN MODEL HELICOPTERS, THEY MAY BE  
SOLD UNDER DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE GENERAL LICENSE PRO-  
VISIONS WITHOUT PRIOR USG PERMISSION.

4. CONFIGURATION OF THE HELICOPTERS THEREFORE DETERMINES

WHETHER OR NOT AGUSTA OBLIGATED TO SEEK USG CONSENT AND WHETHER TRANSFERS WITHOUT CONSENT CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF THE LICENSING AGREEMENT. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS ANY FURTHER INFORMATION EMBASSY MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER A VIOLATION HAS OCCURRED.

5. FYI - AS WE OURSELVES HAVE STATED WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL UTILITY HELICOPTERS TO BAHRAIN, AND AS AGUSTA BELL HAS EXCLUSIVE SALES TERRITORY (VIS-A-VIS THE U.S. FIRM BELL HELICOPTER) IN BAHRAIN AS A RESULT OF THE LICENSING AGREEMENT, SHOULD AGUSTA BELL REQUEST USG CONSENT TO MAKE SALE OF REASONABLE NUMBER OF UTILITY HELICOPTERS DEPARTMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SUCH REQUEST SYMPATHETICALLY. END FYI.

6. PROPOSED REVISION TO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ARMS REGULATIONS REQUIRING FIRMS TO OBTAIN PRIOR USG CLEARANCE BEFORE MAKING PRESENTATIONS, ETC., DESIGNED TO INDUCE A DECISION TO PURCHASE SIGNIFICANT COMBAT EQUIPMENT VALUED AT DOLS. 7 MILLION OR MORE FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER, BUT WILL NOT COME INTO FORCE UNTIL MID JULY AT EARLIEST. AS A MATTER OF POLICY HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE EMBASSY, IN THIS INTERIM PERIOD, SHOULD NOT ASSIST FIRMS WHICH DO NOT HAVE PRIOR USG APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR SUCH PROPOSALS. FYI: WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SYMPATHETICALLY CONSIDER SALE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROPRIATE SMALL PATROL BOATS IN REASONABLE NUMBERS TO BDF IF MILITARILY JUSTIFIED AND IN U.S. INTEREST. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE DETAILS OF SWIFTSIPS PROPOSAL, WE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE ARMAMENT PACKAGES, FOR EXAMPLE, AND THEREFORE WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE A JUDGMENT AS TO FINAL DETERMINATION. END FYI.

7. AS EMBASSY AWARE INFORMAL BAHRAINI FEELERS RE TOW (FROM CHIEF OF STAFF IN 1974 AND FROM PRIME MINISTER IN 1975) WERE DISCOURAGED. WE DO NOT WISH AT THIS TIME TO ENCOURAGE GOB TO ASK FOR TOW. NO DECISION TO SUPPLY TOW TO UAE HAS BEEN MADE, AND YOU SHOULD CORRECT BAHRAINI MISUNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT. FYI: TOW WAS NOT CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF SURVEY OF BDF REQUIREMENTS, STILL UNDER WASHINGTON REVIEW, BECAUSE BDF DID NOT EXPRESS INTEREST IN INFANTRY EQUIPMENT. END FYI. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROCUREMENT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE166319  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DKEENE:TLB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ORIGIN PM  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Reference:** 77 MANAMA 1192  
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**SAS ID:** 1840436  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BDF WEAPONS PROCUREMENT  
**TAGS:** MASS, MILI, BA  
**To:** MANAMA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
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